



# THE ALBERTA MUNICIPAL



# Counsellor

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May, 1959

## SUB-COMMITTEE FOR 1960 PROJECT

### TO WORK OUT DETAILS

Hon. A. R. Patrick, Minister of Economic Affairs, was named recently as head of a cabinet sub-committee to work out details of the special projects for 1960 under the Alberta Government's Five Year Program.

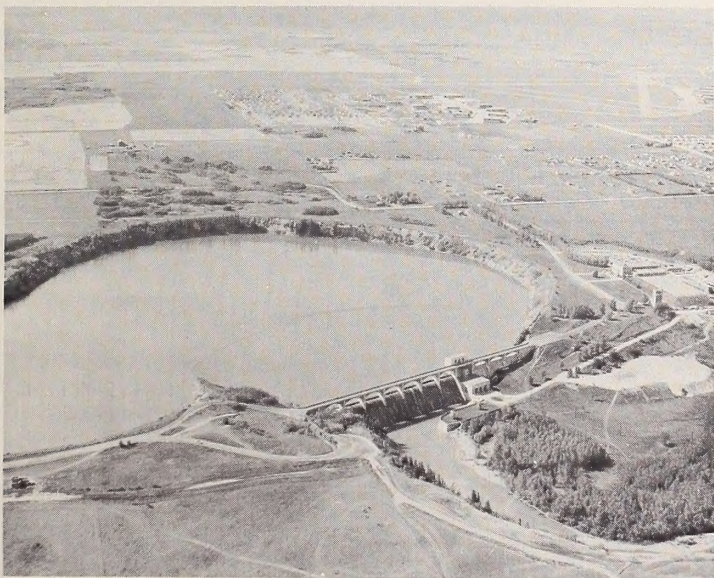
In the original announcement last August 14, Premier Manning stated, "For 1960, the special project will be a 10 million dollar program for local community improvements including street paving in some 200 major towns, villages and hamlets and the provision in strategic centers of local recreation facilities such as parks, swimming pools, picnic and campsites, youth projects, etc. The object is to improve living standards and provide recreational facilities readily accessible to and within financial reach of all our people."

Municipalities proceeding with a recreational development scheme on their own prior to decisions as to details of the government's program will not prejudice their position in the overall provincial program.

### HOLD JOINT CONVENTION

Third annual joint convention of personnel of the Assessment Branch and the Field Service Branch, Department of Municipal Affairs, was held in the Assembly Room of the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium April 20th to 24th. Discussion of assessment procedures and general administration problems of an increasingly important nature filled the five-day meeting.

The conference was opened by Hon. A. J. Hooke who spoke on the Government's 5 Year Plan as related to the municipal administration. (More on Page 8)



**GLENMORE DAM** on the Elbow River at Calgary. If this dam had greater use in generating power, it could be related to excerpts from The Alberta Power Commission Report on Page 4. The truth is, Glenmore's primary purpose is to store water for the needs of Calgarians.

Alberta Government Photos

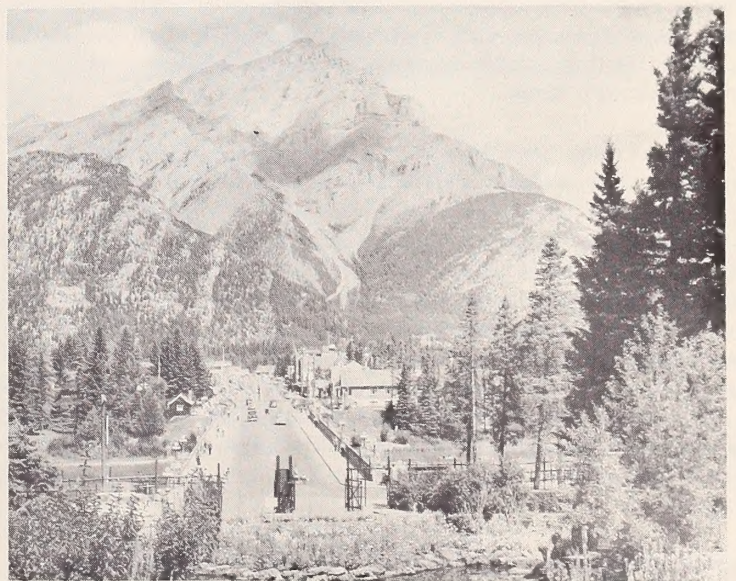
### COURSES SLATED FOR JUNE

Week of June 7 - 13 has been chosen for the refresher courses for municipal and school secretaries being held again this year at the Banff School of Fine Arts. This is the twenty-first year for municipal officials and the fifteenth for school secretaries. The two courses are sponsored by the Department of Extension, University of Alberta, the Department of Municipal Affairs, the Alberta Association of Municipal Secretary-Treasurers, as well as the Department of Education, the Alberta School Secretaries' Association and the Alberta School Trustees' Association.

In a draft program released by the Executive recently registration for the Municipal Administration course begins on June 7 with welcoming addresses the following morning. A review of "Legal Problems" by Alan Brownlee, Q.C. will complete the morning. In the afternoon Professor J. D. Campbell will address the gathering on the latest developments regarding "Hospitalization, The Chronic Hospitals and Old Folks' Homes," after which D. Gardiner (Rocky View) will review the first twenty-one years of refresher course activity. D. A. Bancroft, lecturer in Public Administration with the Department of Extension is also slated to discuss the certificate courses which have been in progress since last October.

Highlights of the program for Tuesday are E. W. Stutchbury, Q.C., leading a panel of secretary-treasurers in a discussion of local government problems and recent amendments to legislation outlined by officials of the Department of Municipal Affairs.

Third day will feature a discussion of assessment problems and "A New Financial Statement". G. Sterling of the Department of Agriculture will give a talk on amendments to the Farm Purchase Credit Act. Wednesday morning and in the afternoon, a meeting of the executive and the Superannuation Committee will be held.



**BANFF, ALBERTA** from the Administration gardens over the Bow River due north to Cascade Mountain. Municipal and school secretaries attending the refresher course being held at Banff School of Fine Arts, June 7 to 13, will enjoy this and other magnificent views which make Banff synonymous with mountain splendor.



THE SECOND PAGE . . .

HIGH FLIGHT

Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth,  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds—and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of—wheeled and soared and  
    swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air.  
Up, up the long delicious, burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark, nor even eagle flew;  
And while with silent, lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

John Gillespie Magee  
(Killed in action with the  
R.C.A.F. December, 1940)

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Elsewhere on this page is a story lifted from the Tofield Mercury about the Jubilee Committee there making plans to celebrate Tofield's fifty years as a town. Town status was granted to Tofield on September 10, 1909, exactly two years plus one day after it had been incorporated a village.

But Tofield is not the only community with a milestone to mark during this year of 1959. Airdrie became a village on September 10, 1909, the same date by the way, Tofield became a town. Bassano gained village status December 28, 1909, but went on to become a town January 15, 1911. Similarly, Castor was first incorporated November 26, 1909, and gained town status June 27, 1910.

The village of Holden dates from April 14, 1909. Way down south, Irvine was made a village on September 17, 1903, and a town just 50 years ago this June 11. Finally there's Viking, Tofield's neighbor, which became a village on February 5, 1909, and a town on November 19, 1952.

All these towns (that is, the people comprising them) have much to celebrate . . . including the foresight and courage of those who founded them. We wish them every success, not only in their planning and their celebrations, but also for the years to come.

WHEN WE WERE VERY YOUNG

Speaking of Golden Jubilees, many of us can recall 1909 without much difficulty. Christy "stiffs" were almost compulsory for men; long street-sweeping dresses for women. That year boys under the age of 17 wore knee pants, while girls of all ages favored high button shoes. So did men for that matter; button hooks were as important then as bottle openers are today.

Children were "seen and not heard" in those days and any breach of discipline was handled easily with the nearest belt or hairbrush.

Families were larger and houses higher fifty years ago. Cities were towns, towns were villages and villages were gleams in the eyes of the beholder. Wide open spaces were within walking distance of any given point. "Rubber-mounted" harness and rubber-tyred buggies were sure signs of opulence.

We've come a long way in fifty years. And yet, human relations used to be more relaxed and, we suspect, the whole world happier. Or is merely that youth is a happy time? And being so young, we knew no better.

Fifty years ago we wondered what the world would be like today. Now we're wondering what's going to happen during the next half century.

It's anybody's guess.

TOFIELD MAKES PLANS

Wednesday evening the Jubilee Committee met in the town hall to discuss plans for ways of celebrating Tofield's 50 years as a town. It was pointed out that the school district is also 50 years old this year, and that 50 years ago the railroad reached Tofield. It was agreed that every method possible should be used to publicise Tofield this year. All organizations are being asked to plan their programs along the theme of the Golden Jubilee. Mrs. Phillips has agreed to collect as much material as possible about oldtimers etc. for publication and would appreciate any help anyone wishes to give her.

The curling club is having a banquet in conjunction with their bonspiel to commemorate the year. The Community League headed by Norm Glover is laying plans for the biggest July 1st ever. They are even going to try and get a pair of live buffalo for that day. The Lions Club are planning the opening of their museum and the Legion plan the official opening ceremonies of their hall. Headed by Charlie Kallal, the Chamber of Commerce will also be getting into the act. The Cultural Branch of the Provincial Government is being contacted to see what help may be had from that direction. It all shapes up to an interesting year in Tofield's history.

- Tofield Mercury

THE CHANGING SCENE

VILLAGE OF BAWLF	
Secretary-Treasurer .....	Mrs. M. Rnyason
Mayor .....	C.M. Paulsen
VILLAGE OF EDGERTON	
Secretary-Treasurer .....	A.D. O'Brien Smith
SUMMER VILLAGE OF BONNYVILLE BEACH	
Secretary-Treasurer .....	Mrs. J. Tercier, Bonnyville
SUMMER VILLAGE OF MA-ME-O BEACH	
Secretary-Treasurer .....	Mrs. B. Beguin, Wetaskiwin
VILLAGE OF TURNER VALLEY	
Secretary-Treasurer .....	W.A. Lewis
VILLAGE OF WILDWOOD	
Secretary-Treasurer .....	K.O. Berge
TOWN OF ATHABASCA	
Secretary-Treasurer .....	D.D. McLeod
TOWN OF HIGH PRAIRIE	
Secretary-Treasurer .....	H.A. Blackie
TOWN OF MILK RIVER	
Secretary-Treasurer .....	Mrs. A. Oborn
TOWN OF SUNDRE	
Secretary-Treasurer .....	V. Richter
COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN, No. 10	
Chairman .....	H. Stronschein, Wetaskiwin
COUNTY OF ATHABASCA, No. 12	
Secretary-Treasurer .....	W.J. Leskiw, Meanook
Chairman .....	A. Aloisio, Perryvale
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LAMONT No. 82	
Reeve .....	J.J. Kawyuk, Whitford
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PEACE No. 135	
Reeve .....	K.A. Johnson, Grimsnaw

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## PRINCIPLES BASIC TO

**ALBERTA'S HOSPITAL PLAN**

BY J.D. CAMPBELL, DIRECTOR, HOSPITAL DIVISION,  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

AN ADDRESS TO THE INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC  
ADMINISTRATION OF CANADA (First of Two Parts)

In the general topic of the Alberta Hospitalization Plan, two different approaches might be taken, namely, to outline to you the mechanical aspects of the Plan including the nature of the coverage, and the actual administrative procedures which are involved, or to examine the basic principles which have been applied in the development of the Alberta Hospitalization Plan. Taking into consideration the nature and interest of the group, I have considered that the latter approach would be the more acceptable under the existing conditions. This will mean that the question period will provide you with an opportunity of raising questions in regard to the mechanics to the degree that they will not be covered in the presentation.

Certain of the principles underlying the operations of the Plan have developed from basic philosophies which exist within the Province, whereas others have been the result of philosophies outside of the Province, but which were made necessary as a result of extending the financial participation into the Federal area.

### 1. Uniform Coverage

The first principle which I wish to discuss is a principle which was set down as a requirement by the Federal Government in the development of the joint Provincial-Federal Hospitalization Plan of which the Alberta Hospitalization Plan forms a part. This principle is that the hospitalization benefits in the Province should be available under uniform terms and conditions to all of the residents of the Province.

The definition of "resident" was to be anyone who has established his home in Alberta and is ordinarily present therein, and that the only persons excluded would be those who might be classed as tourists, transients, or visitors in the Province. Where hospitalization coverage was granted to any resident under a Federal or Provincial statute, then such residents would be excluded from the benefits under the Provincial Plan. The implementation of this principle resulted in the principle of free choice of hospital, and therefore free choice of doctor inasmuch as it applied to the hospitalization field.

In implementing this principle in the various Provinces across the Dominion, the Federal Government encountered certain difficulties inasmuch as the basis of financing used by the various Provinces of their contributions to the Plan varied. This was evident by the waiting period, particularly in those Provinces which financed their Plan in part through premiums, and the Federal Government was forced to modify the basic principle to the degree that the waiting period could be accommodated. In Alberta this problem was not encountered since we do not use a premium for purposes of financing the Plan, and that a person is eligible immediately for hospitalization benefits on coming to Alberta if he intends to establish his home here and to be ordinarily present therein.

### 2. Standard Services

The second principle which I wish to discuss is one that had been developed by each of the Provinces in their thinking in the area of hospitalization, namely, that the level of services provided by the Plan should be set at a maximum and that where an individual receives services over and above that maximum, the responsibility would be that of the individual. Some difficulty was encountered in bringing the various Provinces together, and in this area the Federal Government played a dominant part, setting out specifically the level of services for which sharing would take place and that as long as the services in any particular area fell within the maximum indicated, that no question would be raised as to whether or not the costs involved would be shared.

In entering into an agreement with the Federal Government the various Provincial Governments incorporated this in their agreement. Some difficulty was encountered in the interpretation of this principle as to whether or not a hospital operating below the maximum would qualify for sharing. Inasmuch as there was a free choice of hospital and that the maximum services were available within the Province, if not at a specific point, then it was agreed that the uniform terms and conditions previously mentioned as set down by the Federal Government were being applied and established in line with the principle as to the maximum standard. I do not consider that there would be much point in my outlining what constituted this standard, but if any of you are interested, this information is available.

### 3. Patient's Responsibility

The third principle which I wish to discuss covers the area of financial responsibility. This principle represents a basic principle of the Social Credit Party in Alberta, namely, that the individual receiving hospital benefits should be required to meet the additional costs which are required as a result of that person being in hospital.

This is reflected in the coinsurance charge which is levied on the resident in the approved hospitals in the Province of Alberta and ranges from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per patient day, dependent upon the size of the hospital. Certain modifications in this area of responsibility were made covering certain classes of patients. In these areas the Provincial Government assumed the responsibility which would otherwise have been the patient's. This applies to the areas of maternity, social welfare recipients, arthritis, polio and cancer.

It is rather interesting to note that the Federal Government in drafting their agreement and in their legislation have not as yet seen fit to consider the payments made in this area by the patient or the Provincial Government to be payments towards costs in which they would ordinarily share, with the result that in computing the shareable costs the Federal Government requires that the total shareable cost should be reduced by the amount of this payment. The amount involved here will amount to approximately four million dollars per year. In spite of this fact, the Provincial Government felt strongly enough in respect to this principle, that they have continued to have the patient pay the coinsurance charge. With the exception of B.C. which imposes a flat \$1.00 per day coinsurance charge, none of the other Provinces have seen fit to adopt this principle.

### 4. Duplicate Coverage

On the implementation of the Plan, the principle was adopted that an individual receiving hospitalization should not be allowed to obtain coverage in excess of the amounts required for the costs of his hospitalization. The application of this principle meant that individuals would be unable to carry private insurance in excess of the amounts required to meet the costs represented by the patient's responsibility. No attempt was made in this area to require mandatory adherence to the principle, but the individual insurance companies together with Blue Cross have co-operated, and at the present time it is only in extreme cases that the individual patient carries insurance which will provide other than the residual costs which are the patient's responsibility.

### 5. Governmental Responsibility

The fifth principle which I wish to discuss also involves the area of financing and follows logically the position which the Province has taken in regard to the responsibility of the individual in the hospitalization plan. Where the individual meets the additional costs which are incurred as a result of his being hospitalized, then the principle was adopted that the various levels of Government, namely, Municipal, Provincial and Federal, should be required to meet the balance of the costs of hospitalization. In other words, the responsibility of the Governmental body was to have the hospitalization facilities available for the use of the individual resident and to bear the standby costs involved.

### 6. The Sharing of Costs by Governmental Bodies

The sixth principle involves the question of the sharing of the costs between the various Governmental bodies.

The first sub-principle accepted is that the municipalities should be required to make a payment towards the Plan, but that such payment

(More on Page 6)



"IT MIGHT BE WELL NOW . . . TO LOOK . . . AT OUR COAL RESERVES."

# FACTS ABOUT ELECTRIFICATION

EXCERPTS FROM THE 1958 REPORT OF THE ALBERTA POWER COMMISSION

J.D. MacGREGOR, Chairman; J.E. OBERHOLTZER, Member; W.C. WHITTAKER, Member; J.L. REID, Member and Secretary

Unlike some other regions in Canada where the power authorities are forced to contemplate installing nuclear power or to reach out hundreds of miles to bring in power from the hydro sites of the north, Alberta is abundantly supplied with sources of relatively cheap power. The problem is not one of searching for sites for power plants either thermal or hydro but is rather one of bringing into production whatever may be the most economical site at any given moment. The keynote of Alberta's planning, then, should be to make certain that at any time the next power plant to be built should be the one that will contribute the cheapest power to the excellent network of transmission lines which forms the backbone of the power system of the Province.

In the light of the rapidly rising cost of all commodities and services and of material and labour, the power producers and distributors have done a remarkable job in keeping the retail cost of power down. Electric power is one of the very few commodities or services in Alberta that has not risen in price. While in many parts of Canada rates for power have had to be increased, the private power companies have so far been able to stave off such an increase, and much credit is due to them for their economical planning. How long they can continue to keep from raising rates is hard to say, but if left to themselves to select the most economical sites with the sole aim of producing the cheapest possible power for Alberta, we may hope to see this condition continue for at least a few years to come.

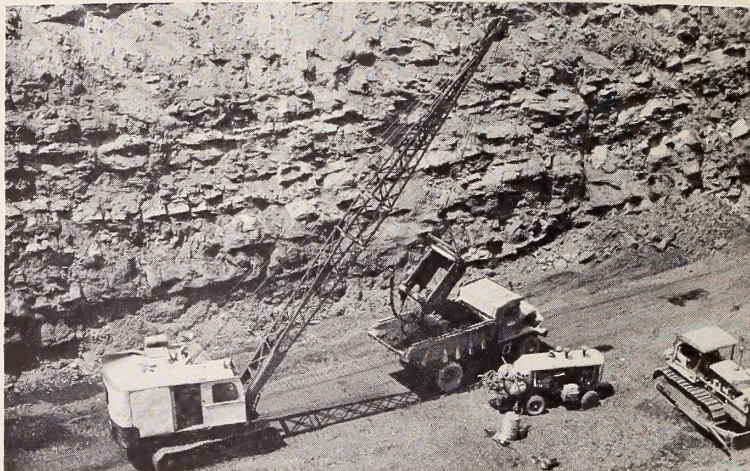
\* \* \* \*

## POPULATION AND COAL RESERVES

The Continent of North America is approaching another explosion of population similar to that which commenced after the Second World War. Canada will share in this and Alberta, because of its great energy resources, will probably have more than its proportionate share. This indicates that it might be well to start now to take a careful look at energy resources and particularly at our coal reserves. We know that we have about one-half of all the mineable coal in Canada but beyond that our knowledge is somewhat limited as to the exact delineation of our various coal seams and the location of mineable deposits of the order of 100 or 200 million tons, which will be required to supply the power plants of the relatively near future. We are only now coming to a realization of the fact that generally speaking in Alberta, power can be produced from coal more cheaply than from natural gas and similarly that thermal power is cheaper than hydro. Coal will produce our base load of the future, while gas and hydro will find their places - most valuable places - as peak load supplements to power from coal. For Alberta at least, because of its cheap fuels, nuclear power is still far in the future.

For the first fifty years after the settlement of Alberta began, its economy was predominately agricultural and great sums of money were spent in agricultural research, and rightly so. Marvelous changes in Alberta's economy followed the discovery of the Leduc oil field in 1946 and much of the boom experienced since then has been due to oil. Now that gas export on a large scale is in the offing, Alberta has another string to its bow and we may therefore expect a further boost in our economy and we may look forward to continuing expansion. The fourth boost of Alberta's economy can be anticipated as our eyes turn to Northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories, a field in which Alberta, with its economy strengthened by a vigorous petroleum industry, is in a position to play a major role in the opening up of Canada's Northern Frontiers. Then, still over the horizon as yet lie the great effects upon Alberta's industrial prospects, of our vast resources of energy to which Canada will turn in the near future.

The impact on Alberta of the increased continental population will call for the development of far greater quantities of power than those to which we are accustomed, even though our installed capacity has increased by 335% in the last ten years. These future demands for power will soon use the few power sites mentioned above and more and more we will turn to those in Northern Alberta and to our coal reserves. For this reason we should be bending our efforts to increasing our knowledge of our coal deposits by means of much further research into their delineation and utilization.



ELECTRICITY FROM COAL is cheapest, thus assuring continued importance for Alberta's vast resources. Strip mine (above) is on Grassy Mountain, Blairmore. Production in 1958 was 83,000 tons.

## FARM ELECTRIFICATION

During 1958, 4,718 farms have been added to the number already electrified in the Province to make a total of 45,848 bona fide farms electrified as at the end of the year. It is expected that another 3,000 farms will obtain Central Station service during 1959.

According to the 1956 Census, 79,424 farms were being operated in Alberta but only 70,058 of these were farms on which someone lived. The remaining 9,366 were being operated mainly by farmers who lived in towns or villages but did not live on their farm. Of these 70,058 farms, 739 were on Indian Reserves and if we deduct these we are left with the remainder of 69,319. If we accept the Census figures, which were compiled during the summer of 1956, then 66% of all farms were electrified as at the end of the year. (Due to farmers leaving their land - the Report continued - occupied farms may number only 63,500 at the end of 1958, in which case the percentage electrified would be 72%.)

\* \* \* \*

When the farms not yet electrified but adjacent to lines will take service is another matter. Our experience in all areas south of Edmonton indicates that once the lines are built the farmers who could have taken service from them but did not hook up originally, came on within 5 or 6 years. Most of the 4,718 farms hooked up in 1958 were served by short taps off existing lines. While in the part of the Province from about Edmonton south the process of the reduction of the number of farms due to consolidation into larger units appears to have almost reached a limit for the time being, this process is still going on in Northern Census Divisions. There are many farmers who have power lines going past their doors who have not taken service due to uncertainty on their part as to whether or not they are going to stay on the farm. It is possible that the very fact that power is available will be sufficient to induce them to remain on the farm, but essentially that decision will have to be made on the basis of farm economics.

\* \* \* \*

## FINANCING

At the end of December there was a total of 364 active Rural Electrification Associations. These Associations have borrowed under both the Guarantee Act and the Revolving Fund Act and the total of these borrowings has been over \$31,000,000.00. At December 31, 1958, nearly \$15,000,000.00 of this had been paid back. The investment in all rural lines in the Province is approximately \$45,000,000.00.

The Rural Electrification Revolving Fund Act, has been of great assistance to all farmers who have been connected during the past four years. By the end of 1958 the Power Commission had given approval to 1,744 applications for loans under Part I of this Act. While all of this money had not been borrowed by the end of December, the approvals covered 25,027 farmers at an estimated cost of nearly \$29,500,000.00.

During 1958 the Power Commission gave approval to 421 applications for loans under Part I of the Revolving Fund Act for an amount



of \$5,334,145.00, to give service to 4,072 farms. Of this amount \$4,225,280.00 was loaned where no Part II loan was necessary. Of the 4,072 farmers signing contracts under the Revolving Fund Act, 803 of them were in areas that needed the assistance of Part II loans. In such areas Part I loans totalling \$1,108,865.00 were approved in conjunction with Part II loans totalling \$361,963.00. The framework of lines in these new Part II areas will make it possible for an additional 1,112 farmers to connect to them whenever they are ready.

During the period since the inception of Part II loans the Power Commission has approved Part II loans totalling \$1,462,780.00. In some cases construction of the lines for which these loans were approved has not been started and other cases has not advanced to the point where the money has to be paid out. For this reason, of the total amount authorized, \$93,094.00 has not yet been disbursed. Of the total of \$1,330,187.73 which was disbursed, \$278,043.96 has already been paid back because of farmers who have hooked up to the lines which were made possible by these loans.

The existence of Part II loans has made it possible to build a framework of lines in areas which otherwise could not have obtained service. There were 7,926 farmers in these areas and initially 3,050 of them took advantage of this financial assistance to get their lines built. When the remainder of the farmers in these areas take service it will be possible to pay off the outstanding balance of the Part II loans. Part II loans have made it possible to extend lines to many areas of the Province which otherwise could not have had service. There are very few areas left now which do not have a network of lines and for this reason we do not expect very heavy demands for Part II loans from here on.

(Note: PART I of the Rural Electrification Revolving Fund Act sets out the conditions under which R.E. Associations may borrow money for initial construction. PART II of the Act enables an R.E.A. to borrow additional funds for extension of service. Ed.)

#### CHECKING COSTS

During the year the Commission has checked all the cost statements which the companies send to R.E.A.'s showing the costs of building their lines, and at the Commission's request the Provincial Auditor has audited a sampling of cost statements. In addition to this, some field checks have been made on various farm areas. With very minor exceptions these costs have always been found to be correct. These checks further show that the areas have been constructed at cost. On the whole, then, we conclude that the Power Companies are building these areas at cost and that, from an engineering standpoint, they are building them efficiently.

The Power Commission feels that it is its duty, not only to investigate problems brought to it, but also to investigate any phases of farm electrification which it believes require study. While the building of farm lines appears very simple and the operation of them is taken for granted, nevertheless there are many intricate problems to be considered if we are to keep all expenses down to the very minimum. Many questions such as monthly versus quarterly billing, card meter reading, operating charges per foot of line; accumulation, investment and use of deposit reserves all merit careful and continuous study. As each of these problems is solved a new one arises to take its place. In its engineering and accounting aspects farm electrification is highly technical and the individual farmer does not have the time nor the opportunity to investigate these matters. The Power Commission feels that one of its main responsibilities is to see that consideration is given to every factor that could possibly reduce the cost of electricity to the farmers. It tries to perform this service.

The question of the correctness of operating charges made to farmers is constantly under study. We believe that the Power Companies are doing a remarkable job of keeping these costs down and of accounting to the farmers for them. In most cases the actual costs are less than the monthly charges made to the farmer in his power bill, so that at the end of each year the Power Companies have been able to make a refund to the deposit reserves of the Associations. The operating charges made in Alberta appear to be reasonable and compare very favourably with those made by R.E.A.'s who are operating in similar territory in the United States. One of the advantages gained by the farmers which enables the operating charges to be kept low is the rather unique method of operating R.E.A.'s in Alberta. While in the United States the R.E.A.'s are generally larger than they are in Alberta, each R.E.A. maintains its own supervisory, office and operating staff, with the result that its overhead is apt to be high. In Alberta where the expenses of operating R.E.A. lines are pooled over all the farmers being served by any one power company, and where, for instance, Canadian Utilities Limited does the operating for some

## LONG IN THE SERVICE



E. J. MARTIN

It is with pleasure this month we pay tribute to Eld James Martin, who on June 6 completes forty years as Secretary - Treasurer of the Municipal District of Fairview No. 136.

Mr. Martin was born at Oxford, England, July 5, 1886, and received his education at Ardingly College, Hayward's Heath in Sussex. Coming to Canada in 1905 as a young man he made his way to this Province the following year—finding a job with John Walters at what was then Strathcona, Alberta. He worked here for three years.

In 1915, Mr. Martin enlisted in the 66th Battalion but was transferred to the 8th Battalion on reaching France. Wounded on the Somme, Mr. Martin was invalided to England where he spent the last two years of the war in the Military Pay Office, London.

Mr. Martin and his wife, Amelia, have three children. John is a research chemist at Lederle's, Pearl River, New York. Another son, Leon Robert, is manager of the Royal Bank at Beiseker. Their daughter, Joy, works at the National Trust Company in Edmonton.

As a young man Mr. Martin played considerable Association football and even today enjoys such athletics as camping and swimming. A member of the A.F. & A.M. and of the Canadian Legion, he always keeps fit and healthy and has never lost a day from the office on account of sickness during his forty years on the job. ●

11,000 farms, and Farm Electric Services does this work for some 32,000 farms, the overhead from a number of small offices is not added to operating expenses. In other words, these companies operate the farm lines more efficiently than would be the case if they were being operated separately by a number of small R.E.A.'s. Unfortunately the utmost efficiency in operating these lines is not enough to keep pace with the inflationary rise in material and labour costs. Increases in cost are gradually narrowing the spread between the actual costs and the nominal operating charge.

The question of the adequacy of the deposit reserves being set aside is receiving study. Some of the older lines of the first R.E.A.'s are now approaching the midpoint of their useful life and studies are being undertaken to try to determine whether or not there will be sufficient money in their deposit reserves to rebuild these lines when the time comes that this has to be done. In general it appears that most deposit reserves will be adequate but there will undoubtedly be some R.E.A.'s which, because of their high mileage of line per farm, it may be desirable to increase the annual accrual. These studies are being continued by the Power Commission, the Union of R.E.A.'s and the Power Companies, and it is hoped that in a year or so some definite recommendations can be made.

The annual use of electricity per farmer in the Province in 1958 has been 3,530 K.W.H. The K.W.H. used per farm per month is low when the farmer is first connected, but increases rapidly during the first year or so. For instance the consumption of the 4,718 farmers who were connected in 1958 will be low. This will have the effect of making an average figure for K.W.H. per farm per year seem lower than it would actually be if all farmers had been connected for a period of, say, three years. When, therefore, we use this figure of 3,530 K.W.H. per farm per year, we should realize that the average farm that has been connected for three years, will use more than this.

Nevertheless, when we consider this figure of 3,530 K.W.H. per farm per year, it is obvious that electricity has become a necessity in farming operations. It is most gratifying therefore to know that farm electrification is now available to almost every Alberta farmer. Electricity provides more than comfort and convenience. It is the most useful tool a farmer can have. It is the one tool which, if used correctly, will repay its cost to the farmer many times over. Electricity is not a luxury. In this age it is an economic necessity. Without it life on the farm is drudgery and undesirable. With it farm life becomes miraculously changed. An electrified farm is an ideal place in which to live. Agriculture is one of our large industries. Everything should be done to make life on the farm as prosperous and as happy as possible. Electricity will be one of the biggest factors in bringing this about. ●



### ALBERTA'S HOSPITAL PLAN (From Page 3)

ments should be maintained at a fairly stable level and that the Provincial and Federal Governments should be required to accept the residual position in respect to the operating costs incurred in providing the hospitalization. With this principle in mind, the municipalities were called upon to contribute on the basis of a three-mill tax (which is to be raised to a four-mill tax this year), based on an equalized assessment. This amount is to be paid by the municipalities into the Provincial Treasury. The amounts entailed will be slightly over five million dollars on the basis of a four-mill assessment.

The second sub-principle applied was that the Provincial and the Federal Government should share in the residual costs and that these two senior Governments should, therefore, accept the basic responsibility of the changing price levels inasmuch as they were reflected in the area of hospital costs. The portion shared by the Federal Government in Alberta approximates 50% of the operating costs of the hospital with the additional 50% being picked up by the Provincial Government with the Municipal Government making the basic contribution which has previously been mentioned.

#### 7. Responsibility for Inefficiencies

The seventh principle entails the responsibility for inefficiencies. Under the Plan such inefficiencies and the cost entailed therein are the responsibility of the owners of the hospital. Where the hospital is owned by the municipality or group of municipalities, then they are responsible for the area of inefficiencies which have been referred to as unapproved by the Provincial Government authorities. In the case of private hospitals, the owners of the hospital representing the private orders or other groups are responsible for this particular area.

#### 8. Absorption of Municipal Responsibilities

The eighth principle entails the policy of the Provincial Government relieving the municipalities of financial burden as a result of the participation of the Federal Government in the cost area in respect to hospitalization. On the 1st of January, 1959, the Provincial Government assumed the responsibility for the servicing of the hospital debt in the way of repayment of debentures and the payment of debenture interest which was previously the specific responsibility of the municipality. By this step the Provincial Government relieved the municipalities of approximately three million dollars of cost, and this step represented in part the carrying out of the principle that has been previously enunciated of passing on of certain of the benefits arising from Federal sharing in the costs of operating the hospitals in Alberta to the municipalities.

#### 9. Break-Even Principle Applied to Operations

The ninth principle which I wish to discuss is very significant when it is viewed in the light of the manner in which the operating results of hospitals had been dealt with prior to the implementation of the Plan. The principle involved was that under the Alberta Hospitalization Plan, a hospital operating at approved levels of cost would not be required to suffer any loss. In addition to the above, it was also set out that the hospitals would not receive payments from all sources in excess of their approved costs.

One of the major areas where problems arose as a result of the implementation of the principle was in the area of unpaid accounts. Based on this principle, the Provincial Government recognized the necessity of absorbing any amounts which were unpaid particularly since the total amount of the account was to be taken into consideration in the determination of the amount of the payment which would be made by the Provincial Government. The procedure which was devised in order to meet this particular situation was that the hospitals were required to follow through a collection procedure as laid down by the Hospitals Division in respect to an outstanding account. If the account remained unpaid after a period of six months and the hospitals had followed out the collection procedures, the Hospitals Division would make a payment to the hospital of 50% of the outstanding account. An arrangement had been made with the Department of Welfare that any payments made by the Hospitals Division in this area would be paid by the Department of Welfare to the Department of Public Health. The reason for this step was essentially that the unpaid accounts would be represented by persons unable to pay their accounts and they would, therefore, fall in the indigent area. This step is tied in closely with the fact that under the new plan the municipalities' responsibility for indigents in the area of hospitalization was essentially taken over by the Department of Welfare through the operations as outlined above. If the hospital collected the account in full at a subsequent date, they were to retain any excess which would arise to offset any deficiencies of accounts where nothing further was collected on them.

## SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT



On March 20, 1959, a derrickman was killed on this site when a derrick fell over. The accident occurred on a truck-mounted portable rig used for well servicing work. The crew were making a trip out of the hole, pulling 2-7/8 inch tubing and racking it in the fingers. They had previously racked 100 stands of 2-7/8 inch drill stem, and were in the process of racking the sixty-first stand of tubing when the derrick fell over. The derrickman received injuries in the fall which resulted in his death.

Investigation of the accident revealed the following: The stands, 30 feet in length, were racked on both sides of the fourble previous to the mishap. There were no sway lines attached to the fourble board for support. There were many welds broken at the fourble board, outrigger foot, and in the derrick. The stands were not tied back in the fingers.

Following is the verdict and recommendations brought in by the jury at the Coroner's Inquest:

We find that the deceased met his death accidentally on the twentieth of March, 1959, while working on a servicing rig in the Lodgepole area, as a result of pipe falling out of position causing rig to topple over. We recommend that sway lines, provided with said rigs, should be used as a precautionary measure, even if they might not be considered necessary in some instances. Also recommend that guy lines from the crown to the ground be used on service rigs to prevent any side swaying.

To prevent tragic accidents of this nature, the Department recommends the following:

1. Regular maintenance, together with visual inspection and a magnafluxing program.
2. Heavier penetration of welds.
3. Guy lines be installed.
4. Stands of pipe be tied in the fingers.

- W.E. Sutton, Chief Factory Inspector

#### 10. Indians and War Veterans

The tenth principle which was applied was one which was imposed by the Federal Government in entering into a Federal-Provincial hospitalization scheme and has been in operation since the 1st of July, 1958. This covers the areas where the Federal Government had been advancing certain aid in the area of hospitalization but in respect to which some question was raised as to their responsibility. The two distinct areas which were involved were, namely, those of the Indians and War Veterans Allowances. These became the responsibility of the Provincial Government under the Federal-Provincial Plan, although the Federal Government assumed the responsibility for the coinsurance of the persons involved in these areas.

#### 11. Federally Controlled Areas

The eleventh principle which was applied was, namely, that where areas existed in the Province . . . (Concluded Next Issue)

### ASSESSMENT in CALIFORNIA

California has 58 counties, each with an assessor elected for a term of 4 years. Elections are non-partisan and the average assessor serves from 12 to 15 years. There are a few city assessors but 80% of the city taxes are included on the county rolls . . . The State Board of Equalization consists of 5 members - 4 members elected by districts and the State Controller, an ex-officio member.

- Assessors' News-Letter



## ALL-CANADA

**MUNICIPAL SCENE - 1956**

(Note: Although it is three years old, we found this national summary of municipal affairs most interesting. Our thanks to CY Book -ED.)

\* \* \* \*

Most Canadians are served by municipal government, although, paradoxically, a great part of the country does not have municipal government. The populated strip running through the Maritime Provinces, along the St. Lawrence River and the eastern Great Lakes, and from Lake Superior to the Pacific is largely municipally organized, but vast areas of the Provinces of Newfoundland, Quebec and those of western Canada, together with the Territories, are so thinly populated that only a few isolated municipalities have been set up.

Except in the Territories, municipal government is organized and functions under provincial jurisdiction. While there are basic similarities in the municipalities as between provinces, there are infinite variations in the detail of legislation governing incorporation, power and functions, in methods of control and assistance, and in local administrative practices.

For municipalities the postwar period has been changeful. Reorganization has been a live topic, and to a degree has come about in some provinces. Ontario has formed a Metropolitan Municipality in the Toronto area. Alberta has realigned the boundaries of its rural municipalities. Like actions are being debated in other provinces. A whole system of local government has grown up in Newfoundland. Several legislative Acts governing municipalities have been substantially rewritten. The Federal Government and some provincial governments have instituted plans for payments in lieu of taxes on Crown property. Serious thought has been given to assessment methods, their improvement and standardization. Financial reporting is gradually being made comparable. Provincial assistance has been revised and increased. And as yet there appears no slackening in the pressure to change the municipal systems, though not all are in accord on degree or on direction, or on the need for any basic change.

In their operating programs many urban municipalities are faced with a great demand for facilities and services as a result of increased need for modern amenities, for better roads and streets and more services, and also as a result of their rapid and sometimes almost explosive growth. The resulting increase in taxation, borrowing and provincial aid is causing much of the pressure for organizational and financial changes, even of a constitutional nature.

An outline of municipal organization at the end of 1956 in each of the provinces of Canada is given in the following paragraphs.

**Newfoundland**—Newfoundland has two cities, St. John's and Corner Brook, the latter becoming incorporated on January 1, 1956. The remainder of the population is dispersed in small settlements along the coast and only since 1937 have a few of the larger of these been set up individually as towns with local councils or, where two or three are close together, as rural districts. These latter are not rural municipalities but merely towns consisting of two or more settlements. Local affairs in the remainder of the Province are administered by the Provincial Government. In 1949 the Local Government Act was passed to facilitate incorporations. There were 31 towns and four rural districts incorporated under the Act at the end of 1956 and 24 local government communities with lesser powers of government.

**Manitoba**—Only the southern and settled section of Manitoba comprising less than one-eighth of the area is organized for local self-government. As in the other three western provinces there is no county organization and all municipalities are independent except of provincial control. There are five cities, four with special charters and one governed by a number of special Acts. General Acts govern the 35 towns, 37 villages, 109 rural municipalities and four suburban municipalities. An Act of 1944 (amended January 1945) authorizes organization of local government districts in unorganized or in disorganized (formerly organized but later unorganized) territory, and 14 such districts have been set up.

**Prince Edward Island**—The Province has one city, Charlottetown, and seven towns, all incorporated by special Acts. They comprise less than one-half of one per cent of the area of the Island and only about a quarter of its population. The Village Service Act, 1951, provides for the incorporation of villages. The remaining area of the Province is not organized municipally, the three counties being provincial administrative units only.

**Nova Scotia**—Municipal organization in Nova Scotia covers the whole of the Province. The two cities, Halifax and Sydney, operate under special charters and certain special legislation. Forty towns operate under the Town Incorporation Act but there are no municipalities incorporated as villages. Cities and towns are independent of counties. The rural area is divided into 18 counties which, in themselves do not represent units of local government. However, 12 of these counties each comprise one municipality and the other six each comprise two municipalities, making a total of 24 rural municipalities.

**New Brunswick**—The Province is divided into 15 counties which are incorporated municipalities and have direct powers of local self-government in the rural areas. In effect therefore they are rural municipalities. In most cases certain of their powers apply in both rural and urban municipalities. The five cities—Saint John, Fredericton, Moncton, Edmundston and Lancaster—have special charters, and the 20 towns operate under the Towns Incorporation Act. There are two villages and 56 local improvement district areas within the counties but outside the cities, towns and villages; these have been incorporated for the provision of limited municipal services.

**Quebec**—Municipal divisions in Quebec embrace the more thickly settled areas comprising about one-third of the Province, the remainder being governed by the Province as 'territories'. The organized area is divided into 75 county municipalities, which are divided again into local municipalities under the Municipal Code and designated as village, township or parish municipalities or simply as municipalities. The counties as such have no direct powers of taxation. Funds to finance the services falling within their jurisdiction are provided by the municipalities forming part thereof. Parts of some counties are not yet organized into incorporated units of local government, being in outlying areas with little or no population. There are 336 villages and 1,129 townships and parishes. A small number of these are independent of the counties in which they are located. Of the 42 cities a few have special charters. The remainder along with the 149 towns are governed by the Cities and Towns Act and numerous special Acts.

**Ontario**—Slightly more than one-tenth of the area of Ontario is municipally organized, the remainder being governed entirely by the Provincial Government. The older section of the Province is divided into 43 counties, five of which are united with others for administrative purposes. Although an incorporated municipality each county is comprised of the towns, villages and townships situated within its borders, which provide its revenue. The Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto encompasses one city, four towns, three villages and five townships. There are 29 cities, 155 towns, 156 villages, 572 townships and 22 improvement districts in the Province. Some of each are located in the northern districts which are not organized into counties.

**Saskatchewan**—All municipalities in Saskatchewan derive their powers from general Acts that are designated with the name of the type of municipality. There are eight cities, 99 towns, 377 villages and 296 rural municipalities. The area so organized consists of most of the southern two-fifths of the Province—the remainder of this portion is administered for local purposes by the Province in unincorporated local improvement districts. The northern three-fifths is sparsely populated and without local government though some municipal services are provided by the Province through operation of the Northern Administrative Area.

**Alberta**—In Alberta there are eight cities, 83 towns, 145 villages and 48 rural municipalities known as municipal districts. Included in the latter are seven county municipalities which are not counties as they exist in Ontario for example but are municipalities where the council administers education and municipal hospitals. There are also some unincorporated improvement districts administered by the Province in less densely settled areas but only about one-fifth of the Province is organized.

**British Columbia**—Less than 0.5 per cent of the area of British Columbia is organized into municipalities. Additional small areas have sufficient population to require administration of local activities by the Provincial Government. There are 36 cities, 52 villages and 30 districts. The latter are chiefly rural municipalities except for those adjacent to the principal cities of Victoria and Vancouver, which are largely urban in character. It should be emphasized however that the application of the name "city" is somewhat different from the commonly accepted meaning in that several of them have populations of fewer than 1,000 and perhaps one-half or more would not normally be incorporated as cities in another province. Legislation of 1957 provides for incorporation of towns. —Canada Year Book 1957-1958



## HISTORY IN ALBERTA



The romance and record of Alberta's oil development began here in these remnants of the province's first successful oil well. It was drilled with cable tools in 1902 in the mountainous country of what is now Waterton National Park. The find gave impetus to the widespread search which resulted in a major strike at Turner Valley in 1914 and in the memorable Leduc discovery of 1947. Location of the wellsite along Cameron Creek was not a chance occurrence. Indians in the area had long been aware of oil seepage there and told John George (Kootenai) Brown, an early Waterton district rancher. Report has it that in 1886 the legendary Kootenai Brown skimmed some of the oil globules off the creek and used the product for greasing farm machinery. One of Brown's workers William Aldridge, later dug pits to collect oil seepage and sold the skimmings for a dollar a gallon to neighboring ranchers.

Shortly before the turn of the century, John Lineham of Okotoks and Surveyor A.P. Patrick organized a company to drill for oil in the Cameron Creek area. Drilling operations started in 1902 and oil was struck at the 1,020-foot level. A flow of 300 barrels per day was claimed of the well.

At this point difficulties confronted the company. Drilling with cable tools apparently cut the well casing and gravel which trickled to the lower level imbedded the tools. Lengthy efforts to "fish" them out proved futile.

Cave-ins above the lost tools were subsequently cleaned out and in 1904 John Lineham had a pump installed. He certified in 1906 that the well had produced 8,000 barrels of crude, 700 of which were sold.

The well ceased producing after a relatively short period. None of the many test wells drilled in the area during ensuing years yielded even a show of oil. In 1907, extensive drilling in the Waterton locality was discontinued. The "oil city" which promoters had visualized in the mountains remained but a dream.

In its place today stands the small park community of Waterton. A drill stem protruding from the Lineham well along Cameron Creek road marks the local point of oil activity at the turn of the century. Lying askew on the ground nearby is the pioneer drilling rig's wooden winch, minus its massive flywheel. Yards of frayed and tangled steel cable litter the undergrowth, almost as obscure as the history which surrounds Alberta's first producing oil well.

- Economic Affairs Booklet •

### UP-TO-DATE FIGURES

We can't speak for the other Canadian provinces as listed on page 7, but for Alberta the number of administrative units has changed considerably during the past three years.

Latest figures here are 10 cities (including Lloydminster), 86 towns (not including Banff, Jasper or Waterton); 156 villages, 12 counties, 36 municipal districts, 49 improvement districts and the Special Areas. Total of 252 urban and 99 rural units.



## SECRETARY'S CALENDAR

### Municipal District Act

#### Every Month

5th-Within 5 days after the end of each month secretary-treasurer shall prepare statement of moneys received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting and enter a copy in the minutes. Sec. 61(v).

June 3 - Auditor to be appointed within two months after the first meeting in each year. Sec. 66.

June 15 - Council shall pay quarterly installment of school requisition. Sec. 338.

June 30 - Second quarter of municipal hospital requisition due. (Sec. 112(5) Municipal Hospital Act.)

July 1 - First third of requisition to Department of Municipal Affairs due. Sec. 12 (Hospitalization Benefits Act).

### Town and Village Act

#### Every Month

15th-Secretary-Treasurer shall prepare statement of moneys received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting and enter in minutes. Sec. 67(r).

June 1 - Secretary-Treasurer shall prepare tax roll on or before September 1st and mail tax notices. Sec. 368 and 370.

June 15 - Second quarter of school requisition due. Sec. 355.

June 30 - Second quarter of municipal hospital requisition due. (Sec. 112(5) Municipal Hospital Act.)

June 30 - Appoint enumerator not later than July 1. Sec. 112(1).

July 1 - First third of requisition to Department of Municipal Affairs due. Sec. 12 (Hospitalization Benefits Act). •

## EDWARDS NAMED CHAIRMAN



C. W. EDWARDS

Appointment of Charles Wilfred Edwards as chairman and Glen C. Grover as member of the Special Areas Board was announced recently by Hon. A.J. Hooke, Minister of Municipal Affairs. Mr. Edwards has been a member of the Board since January 1, 1958, and succeeds J.R. McBeath whose retirement was effective on April 30.

Mr. Grover, for many years Board Fieldman at Oyen, moves to Hanna Headquarters of the Board, which administers the public affairs of the residents of some five million acres in southern Alberta. Stanley Cherkas remains as secretary-member.

Mr. Edwards was born at Youngstown in 1916. Educated there he took up farming until the first world war during which he served four years in England, Italy and north western Europe with the Canadian Provost Corps. Following his return from overseas he entered the service of the Special Areas as Fieldman at Consort where he remained until 1958.

Father of three boys, Barry, John and Gordon, Mr. Edwards in 1957 was zone commander of the Canadian Legion and is Past D.D.G.M. of the I.O.O.F. Lodge in District 18A. •

### HOLD JOINT CONVENTION (From Page 1)

Addresses of welcome were delivered by A.W. Morrison, Deputy Minister, J.B. Laidlaw, Assessment Commissioner, D.E. Mills, Supervisor of Assessments and A.R. Isbister, Supervisor of Field Service.

The success of any conference depends on the participation of those attending. With more than 30 speakers talking on topics ranging from Legislation and Equalization of Assessments through a variety of assessment subjects to Public Relations, the Certificate Course in Municipal Assessment and the new Provincial Assessment Manual, the 87 persons attending felt fully justified in lauding the 1959 conference "the best ever".

A successful social evening was held in Club Mocombo attended by 110 conference delegates and guests. (J.H.)